

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IOE-00 /115 W
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P R 011620Z APR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6360
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
CANBERRA 1504
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TUQMAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1165
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AAMBASSY TOKYO 3869

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2491

BUENOS AIRES FOR HOROWITZ

IO FOR PALMER

SIL FOR DALE GOOD

PASS LABOR FOR SAMUES, QUACKENBUSH, AVERY & LINSSEN MAYER

PASS COMMERCE FOR UPTON

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, ELAB
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SUBJECT: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S VIEWS ON ISRAEL ISSUE AT ILC

REF: CAIRO 4500

1. ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD BELIEVES THAT THE
DEGREE OF SUPPORT THE ARABS ARE ABLE TO MUSTER AT THE
AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI (WEEK OF

APRIL 25) WILL BE THE KEY ELEMENT IN DETERMINING ARAB STRATEGY AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC) IN JUNE. BLANCHARD'S REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE WILL BE A FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS SINCE THE 1974 ILC RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL. AT PRESENT, BLANCHARD BELIEVES THE ARAB MODERATES WISH TO AVOID A SHOWDOWN IN JUNE; BUT THAT IF ARAB CRITICISMS OF ISRAEL ARE COMPLETELY FRUSTRATED, THE ARABS MAY VENT THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT IN AN ATTACK ON "THE UNDEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE OF THE ILO".

2. BOTH THE TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT TOLD BLANCHARD (ON A RECENT VISIT TO TUNIS FOR A TUNISIAN LABOR FEDERATION MEETING) THAT THEY AND OTHER ARAB MODERATES (EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN) WISH TO AVOID CONFRONTATION ON THE ISRAELI RESOLUTION THAT WOULD HURT THE ILO OR INDUCE THE U.S. TO WITHDRAW. THE OTHER ARAB MODERATES AT THE TUNIS MEETING, INCLUDING THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE, SEEMED TO BLANCHARD SINCERE IN THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AT THE ILC. HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM IS LIBYAN PRESIDENT KADAFI, WHOM THE TUNISIANS SEE AS HELLBENT ON MOBILIZING THE ARABS FOR AT LEAST A REVIVAL OF THE 1974 RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL. THEY EXPECT KADAFI TO TRY TO SELL A PLAN OF ACTION AT THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS MEETING IN TRIPOLI (BLANCHARD HAS BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING). ENNACEUR, TUNISIAN LABOR MINISTER WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE LAST YEAR, TOLD BLANCHARD THAT HE FEARS FOR HIS PHYSICAL SAFETY AT THE TRIPOLI MEETING. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION (ALO) COORDINATING COMMITTEE (PARA FOUR REFTTEL) WILL BE LOBBYING AT TRIPOLI TO GET AFRICAN SUPPORT TO KEEP THE 1974 RESOLUTION ALIVE (THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF ARAB GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE TRIPARTITE ALO).

3. ETHELBERT COOPER, THE LIBERIAN REP AT THE MARCH ILO GB SESSION TOLD BLANCHARD THAT KADAFI PLANS TO DELIVER A "FIERY SPEECH" IN TRIPOLI AGAINST THE GB DECISION TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON BLANCHARD'S "FOLLOW UP" TO THE 1974 RESOLUTION AND AGAINST THE "UNDEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE" OF THE ILO. COOPER WILL REPORT TO THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS ON THE GB ACTION IN CLOSING THE BOOK.

4. BLANCHARD'S REPORT TO THE ILC IN JUNE WILL BE A SIMPLE FACTUAL RECITATION OF EVENTS SINCE THE 1974 RESOLUTION AND WILL INCLUDE AS AN ANNEX THE GB PAPER WHICH "CLOSED THE BOOK". HOWEVER, THE REPORT WILL MENTION

THE FACT THAT THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS PUT QUESTIONS
TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CONCERNING ITS IMPLEMENTATION
OF CONVENTION 111 (DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT). THE
EXPERTS REPORT WILL BE THE WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE
ILC COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS.

5. COMMENT: BLANCHARD'S REMARKS STILL LEAVE US IN
THE DARK ABOUT ARAB STRATEGY AT THE ILC, BUT THEY
UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE APRIL 25 MEETING IN
TRIPOLI AND THE FACT THAT BLANCHARD WILL BE IN
WASHINGTON THE NEXT WEEK AND ABLE TO REPORT
HIS FIRST-HAND OBSERVATIONS. SHOULD THE ARABS FAIL
TO GET AFRICAN SUPPORT TO KEEP THE 1975 RESOLUTION
ALIVE OR FOR A NEW RESOLUTION OF CONDEMNATION, WE CAN
INDEED EXPECT THEM TO MAKE TROUBLE IN THE ILC COMMITTEE
ON STRUCTURE AND TO PLAY THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
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OF EXPERTS FOR ALL IT IS WORTH.SORENSEN

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